(ii) M/s. Essar Gujarat Limited.

(ii) To transfer a part of the lease of deposit 11-B held by NMDC (i.e. the area comprised in deposit 11-B) to the joint venture company after following the prescribed procedures.

(iii) To seek decision of Government regarding the consideration to be charged for transfer of the mining lease.

The Steel Ministry made an in-depth analysis of the recommendations received from NMDC and submitted a note to the Cabinet for consideration. As regards consideration to be charged for transfer of mining lease, it was felt that it would not be appropriate to treat it as a normal commercial transaction and realize the maximum consideration because this would render the final product costly and uncompetitive. Moreover, the transfer was proposed to a joint venture company in which NMDC itself is a partner. At the same time, the Steel Ministry felt that NMDC should not be put to any pecuniary loss and should be compensated for the actual expenditure that it had incurred on exploration, feasibility and other preliminary works. The Steel Ministry, hence, proposed that the actual expenditure incurred as above, updated to curent costs through an appropriate method to be determined by a recognised professional organisation such as the institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India (ICWAI), should be recovered from the joint venture partner.

The Cabinet, in their meeting on 30.5.95, accorded approval to development of Bailadila 11-B desposit as a joint venture. Based on this, approval was accorded to NMDC on 13.6.95 to form the joint venture company and take other consequential actions. The interests of the local people including the adivasi poprlaticn and trade unions have been 5-.U-yarded by advising NMDC to stipulate in the joint venture agreement that the joint venture company will recruit all skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled.workers through the Local Employment Exchange except to the extent that such workers are not available with the Local Employment Exchange. The joint venture agreement has since been signed on 10.7.95.

Detection of Drug Abuse Cases in India

1272. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India, which was regarded as a transit country, has now become a major consumer of lethal substances;

(b) if so, the total number of cases of drug abuse, detected during 1993, 1994 and 1995 as on date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that maximum number of consumers of such lethal substances are localised in slum areas, and among transport workers; and

(d) whether any specific plan has been drawn during 1995 to check such a menace?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE SHRI SITARAM KESRI: (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to the Reports received from De-addiction and Counselling Centres being run by NGOs with financial assistance from this Ministry the number of drug addicts registered at these centres during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Abusers registered
1993-94	2,90,628
1994-95	3,12,118
1995-96	The Quarterly Report upto June, 95 is under compilation.

(c) No countrywide survey has been conducted so far. However, in order to have a composite picture of the nature and magnitude of the problem of drug abuse, Ministry of Welfare sponsored 23

projects in 1990-91 in 33 selected cities/ towns/border areas. Some of the major findings of the studies are as under:—

(i) Drug abuse is not religion/caste specific;

(ii) Though the worst group affected is in the age of 16—35 years but substantial number even starts before the age of 16 years;

(iii) Marital status was not found to be correl-ated to the prevelcnce of drug abuse;

(iv) Males (96.5%) were more given to drug abuse than females (2.5%);

(v) Lower income groups are more susceptible;

(vi) Drugs most commonly abused were cannabis, herein and raw opium;

(vii) The source of supply of drugs is by peddlers operating through shopkeepers and panwalas;

(viii) A large proportion of«addicts were either unemployed, labourers, transport workers or studnets;

(ix) Curiosity and pear pressure were the main reasons for drug abuse. Medical reasons were given by 20% addicts.

(A) There was an awareness about' the ill-effects of drug on both the individual and his family.

(d) A Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention is being implemented by this Ministry to provide financial assistance to voluntary organisations for running Drug Awareness, Counselling and Assistance Centres. De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres for the counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and also for awareness generation among the masses against drug abuse and alcoholism. Under this scheme, 90% of the approved annual expenditure is provided by this Ministry and the remaining 10% is to bet)orne by' the voluntary organisations them-Selves. Universities/Institutes of Social Work/Institutes of Higher Learning are however provided 100% assistance under the scheme.

Identification of Drought Affected Areas

1273. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the chronically drought affected areas in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to assist the farmers to grow some alternative cfops in those areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) 946 blocks in 149 districts of 13 State* have been identified as drought prone for implementation of the Drought Prone Areas Programme from 1995-96. The State-wise details are given below:

SI. Np	State	No. of districts	No. of blocks
1,	Andhra Pradesh	11	94
2.	Bihar	16	121
3.	Gujarat	10	52
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3	9
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	22
6.	Karnataka	11	80
7.	Madhya Pradesh	25	134
8.	Maharashtra	22	148
9.	Orissa	5	47
10.	Rajasthan	10	32
11.	Tamil Nadu	13	80
12.	Uttar Pradesh	17	91
13.	West Bengal	4	36
	TOTAL	149	946

(c) and (d) Government of India circulate a Model Contingency Plan every